

## **SB 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022**

### **Testimony before Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**February 15, 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Ms. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Michael Loll, and I am a member of the Green Team of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Columbia, MD. I am providing written testimony today in **strong support of SB 528** in accordance with the position taken by the Roman Catholic Church on climate change, and its disparate effects on the poor and marginalized.

The obvious effects of climate change have been documented for years – sea level rise, flooding, heat waves, and so on. But there are other direct effects that get less attention in the media, yet still have significant impacts. Burning fossil fuels increases the incidence of asthma and heart attacks. It is no accident that asthma rates in Baltimore, with its confluence of interstates and industry, has a higher asthma rate than the surrounding suburbs. Nor is it an accident that many of the asthma afflicted residents of Baltimore are poor minorities. These are the groups the Church calls us to support.

On a personal note, my mother suffered from asthma. For those who have never seen one, a full blown asthma attack is one of the most terrifying events a person can witness. Imagine what it is like for the sufferer.

For the reasons listed above, this is why I stand with Pope Francis and the stand he outlines in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**On behalf of the Green Team of St. John's, I encourage a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time and attention.

Michael Loll

Columbia, Maryland